

BRANCH ROUND UP

Membership

As membership is technically due in January renewals will be sent out in the Autumn Stonechat, for those that have only just renewed this might seem a little precipitate however it will allow us to avoid such anomalies in future.

Branch Meetings

Next meeting will start at 7.30pm prompt at Saracens Head Cerrig y Drudion, please note the change of venue (by a few hundred yards). Food is available, arrive early for a chat. There will be a brief discussion of Branch business followed by a talk on hill forts from Fiona Gale, Denbighshire County Archeologist.

Competitions

The Snowdonia Society competition this year will be part of the Capel Curig Carnifal, on July 18. Our display and tent will be present, if you're not competing why not give us a hand for an hour or two and then enjoy the carnival and watch some paint dry – I mean observe the finely honed skills of the competitors, minus Sean who following being given the trophy last year for his third successive victory will this year be taking a rest (and giving everyone else a chance) and Judging instead. Details from Snowdonia Society Tel:01690 720287



Sean in action at last year's Snowdonia Society competition, taken from Snowdonia Society website <http://www.snowdonia-society.org.uk/index2.php?id=32>



Instructor Geraint Evans (left) explains to Gwynfor Jones from Brynsiencyn how to stabilise a building stone. Blaen y Nant Taster day. © S Adcock

Planning for our competition at Cerrig is underway, Vic Hollings has agreed to travel down from Yorkshire to judge alongside lolo Jones who will be making his debut. Some sponsorship has been confirmed from Justin Kellet from Aber Quarry, Moelfre but we still need several hundred pounds. Any ideas? If there's a local business you use why not ask them, even 20 or 30 pounds would help, let Sean know and he can follow up. All we need now are competitors and on site help and that means you! Don't forget there's To will be snacks, cake, tea, coffee and possibly a can following this year's Competition and it's free.

Training

Press coverage has sledged to a fair amount of interest in our programme. So far we've had two successful taster days at Blaen y Nant and Cae Gwyn, thanks to Gareth,

Geraint and Craig for giving their time. As we go to press numbers for the next two at the same venues are looking good, although bookings for our full training courses are a little disappointing.

We're also in ongoing discussions with Loggerheads Country Park to set up a programme of courses in the Clwydian Range AONB, probably for next year.

Meanwhile there's a practice day for members on BBQ day at Blaen y Nant. Get some informal training or turn up for part of the day and drink tea, chat and place the occasional stone.

Socials



Blaen y Nant and Foel Goch from the clapper bridge. © S Adcock

We are holding a BBQ at Blaen y Nant as part of the Training Course, you'll need to book and pay £5 (form enclosed.) This will be on the Saturday of the training Course with food from about 6pm. As mentioned above as well as the training course there will be an opportunity for members to have a bit of a get together and do some walling, a novel idea! Come along for an hour or two place the odd stone, have a chat, drink tea- the urn will be on the go all day and the wall is just a few yards away.

The BBQ will be taking place at Beudy Llwyd a renovated barn on Blaen y Nant. It used to be a smithy when the drovers gathered stock at the head of the valley before heading off towards Capel Curig and beyond. Its alongside a river and clapper bridge, with a waterfall in the background an idyllic spot and all weather catering. In the last 10 years around a mile and a half of wall has been renovated on Blaen y Nant, all sorts of features, shapes and sizes. There will be a guided walk for all interested, from about 5pm onwards.

Film Night

We've had permission from "Fuzzy Slippers" to have a public showing of Dan Snow's DVD which will be on Friday 23rd

October At Caban, Brynrefail, Caernarfon, in conjunction with the "Occasional Cinema". The film will be preceded by a short presentation on Dan's books starting at 7.30pm. Themed food is available from 6pm, best arrive 7 at latest if you want to eat. The food has to be booked directly with the Caban. Entry will cost £5 in aid of Branch and Occasional Cinema funds. Members will be sent a circular at the beginning of October with further details.

Displays

We are hoping to update the display and have put a grant application to CCW which will hopefully pay for a proportion of this as well as a new Training course leaflet and a digital projector so we can spread the word!

Meanwhile the tattered old display will be stopping off at a number of spots (see Diary) and would really appreciate some company....

Committee Meetings

The diary usually notes the date of the next committee meeting. If there's anything you feel needs bringing to the attention of the committee please contact Craig. Copies of minutes and action points are available from Sean should any member require a copy.

Diary

Date	Event	Contact
27.6	Taster Day, Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon.	Gareth
1.7	Branch Meeting. 7.30pm Saracens Head, Cerrig y Drudion Guest speaker Fiona Gale, Denbighshire County Archaeologist will be talking about hill forts.	
4.7	Taster Day, Cae Gwyn, Cyffiliog, Ruthin.	Craig
18/19.7	Training Course, Cae Gwyn, Cyffiliog, Ruthin.	Craig
18.7	Snowdonia Society Competition, Capel Curig Carnifal.	Sean
25/26.7	Training Course, Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon.	Sean
25.7	Practice meet, Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon.	Sean
25.7	BBQ Blaen y Nant, Nant Ffrancon.	Sean
26.7	Display Eryrs Tractor gathering	Craig
5.8	Committee meeting.	Craig
5.9	Competition, Cerrig y Drudion Show.	Sean/Craig
12.9	Demonstration Nant Peris Carnifal.	Sean
23.10	Film Night, Caban, Brynrefail, 7.30pm showing Dan Snow's "Stone Rising" in conjunction with "Occasional Cinema".	Sean
4.11	Branch AGM. Foelas Arms, Pentrefoelas. 7.30pm. Guest Speaker Philip Clark (former DSWA international co-ordinator)	

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